(b) Possibilities of taking up sewage fed fish farming in few selected cities in India are under study.

Competition in Cotton Procurement

45. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are allowing competition between the Cotton Corporation of India and monopoly procurement agencies of cotton growing States in the matter of procurement of raw cotton;

(b) what are the details of the resultant benefits;

(c) whether Government have any plan to introduce this type of competition in agricultural produce and other cash crops also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir. The monopoly procurement scheme in respect of raw cotton is in operation in Maharashtra State only where the Cotton Corporation of India does not undertake market support operations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal from the States for monopoly procurement of any agricultural commodity. Therefore, the question of competition between the different agencies does not arise.

Promotional Avenues for Junior Engineers in CPWD

46. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Junior Engineer of C.P.W.D. do not get promotion after 20-25 years of service;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the promotional avenues for the Junior Engineers in C.P.W.D.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason for the acute stagnation at the level of junior Engineers is that the organisational structure of the Central Public Works Department has not expanded adequately. Also some of the construction works, earlier done by the C.P.W.D. are now being done departmentally by different civil engineering organisations under different departments, resulting in corresponding decline in the workload and to the promotional avenues for all categories in the CPWD which are affected in different degrees.

(c) All the posts of Assistant Engineers in the CPWD are at present available for promotion to Junior Engineers, 50% by Seniority-cum-merit and 50% by departmental examination.

Demands of Employees of Namrup-Unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation

47. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation of the 25th November, 1985 from Members of Parliament regarding the important demands of employees of Namrup unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to fulfil those demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) A letter dated 25th November, 1985 signed by 11 Members of Parliament was received regarding enhancement of Namrup Allowance and payment of wages to the employees of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation for the period of their absence during Assam agitation.

The quantum of Namrup Allowance was agreed to in July, 1977 with the stipulation that it would not be subject to revision in future. In view of this position, it has not been possible so far to revise the rates of Namrup Allowance.

With regard to the regularisation of absence of the empoyees during Assam agitation, the Government have laid down guidelines, according to which absence is to be regulated by grant of leave of the kind due and admissible to them. The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has been advised to take action accordingly.

Sale of Defectives by Sail

48. DR. R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of sale of 'defectives' by the Steel Authority of India Ltd., to private sector zone-wise, details for the last three years;

(b) whether the percentage increased during the last three years, if so, what are the reasons for such an increase;

(c) whether Government propose to review the policy of sale of 'defectives' by the SAIL to private sector and gradually decrease the percentage of sale to that sector; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) No zone-wise data are maintained by SAIL regarding sale of defectives to the private sector. However, the percentage sale of defectives over total sales of steel during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Percentage of sale of defectives to the private sector over total sales
1983-84	3.6
1984-85	3.7
1985-86 [April-November 85]	3.0

(b) The percentage increased marginally during 1984-85 due to somewhat slower lifting of steel by identified actual users.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to lay down guidelines for allocation of defectives to actual users since the nature of defects varies widely from lot to lot.

Increase in Fertilisers Prices

49. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of fertiliser have been increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of times the prices of fertilizers have been raised by Government during the last five years and at what rate each time;

(d) whether it is a fact that the increase in the prices of fertilisers would adversely affect the use of fertilisers in agriculture resulting in the reduction in the production of foodgrains; and